

## Message Text

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15  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 262055Z JUL 76  
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7792  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS MONTREAL 1016

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, EAIR, CA  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO AUROTA CONTRACT

REF: MONTREAL 1009

MONTREAL FRANCOPHONE DAILY LE JOUR, WHICH FOLLOWS THE PARTI  
QUEBECOIS SEPARATIST LINE, STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE ORION/AURORA  
CONTRACT IN ITS EDITORIAL OF JULY 24, 1976. BECAUSE OF THE  
ENTHUSIASM OVER THE OLYMPICS, SAID LE JOUR, THE DEAL DID NOT  
ATTRACT MUCH ATTENTION FROM THE OPPOSITION PARTIES OR THE PUBLIC.  
HOWEVER, IT IS A STRANGE STORY. AT FIRST, THE BANKS REFUSED TO  
ADVANCE LOCKHEED THE MILLIONS NEEDED FOR THE CONTRACT.  
TO APPEASE THE MILITARY LOBBY  
IN OTTAWA, THE GOVERNMENT AWARDED IT A CONTRACT OF SOME \$200 MILLI  
ON  
FOR TANKS. SINCE IN THE MEANTIME LOCKHEED SUCCEEDED IN ARRANGING  
ITS FINANCING, THE ARMED FORCES WILL GET NOT ONLY THE TANKS BUT  
THE PATROL PLANES AT A TOTAL COST OF \$1.3 BILLION AND THIS,  
LE JOUR ADDED SARCASTICALLY, WILL SERVE TO PROTECT CANADA  
FROM SEA TO SEA AND "TO RESPECT OUR PRECIOUS COMMITMENTS TO NATO  
AND NORAD, THE TWO PILLARS ON WHICH RESTS CANADA'S POLICY  
OF NATIONAL DEFENSE". FOR QUEBEC, THIS MEANS THAT WITH A STROKE  
OF THE PEN FEDERAL SUPPLY AND SERVICES MINISTER GOYER HAS  
PLEDGED ITS CITIZENS TO PAY \$300 MILLION INTO THE FEDERAL  
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TREASURY "FOR THE HONOR OF OUR ARMED FORCES, THE AMUSEMENT OF THE

MILITARY, AND THE SACROSANCT PROTECTION OF THE DOMINION". THIS IS IN ADDITION, OF COURSE, TO THE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS THAT QUEBECERS MUST "SPIT INTO THE FEDERAL POT" FOR THE NORAM MAINTENANCE AND CURRENT EXPENSES "OF HER MAJESTY'S ARMED FORCES". QUEBEC PREMIER ROBERT BOURASSA, CONYINUES LE JOUR, WILL CERTAINLY NOT OPPOSE THIS "BLEEDING OF QUEBEC TAXPAYERS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT VAPIRE MILITARY BUDGET". LIKEWISE "HIS BIG OTTAWA BROTHER, MR. PIERRE ELLIOT TRUDEAU, ERSTWHILE OUT-AND-OUT ANTI-MILITARIST, PARLOR PACIFIES T AND OCCASIONAL LEFTIST AT THE DEFUNCT CITE LIBRE" WILL REMAIN QUIET. THEY AND THE QUEBEC LIBERAL DEPUTIES IN OTTAWA, WHO AS USUAL DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON, WILL CONTINUE TO SING THE PRIASES OF FEDERALISM AND TO PREDICT THE MOST DIRE CONSEQUENCES IN THE EVENT QUEBEC SHOULD DECIDE TO SEPARATE. NOW, BY UNILATERAL DECISION OF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT, QUEBEC TAXPAYERS DURING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS WILL HAVE TO PAY MILLIONS OF THEIR HARD-EARNED DOLLARS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT WHICH MAY BECOME OBSOLETE BEFORE THE BILL IS FULLY PAID. AN INDEPENDENT QUEBEC COULD DEVOTE THESE MILLIONS TO ITS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, ITS CULTRAL OR SOCIAL PRIORITIES, OR THE STRENGTHENING OF ITS STATE CORPORATIONS. FOR THE TIME BEING, CONCLUDES LE JOUR, THE OLYMPIAN COTS OF THE AURORA CONTRACT PREOCCUPIES PUBLIC OPINION LESS THAN THE GRACIOUS PERFORMANCE OF AN ENGAGING ROMANIAN GYMNAST AT THE MONTREAL GAMES. BUT THE GAMES WILL END AND LIFE WILL CONTINUE. AND WE WILL HAVE TO TAKE UP IN DEPTH THE DEBATE ON THIS CONTRACT OF THE CENTURY, "WHICH WILL COST US A MINT".

HARPER

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## Message Attributes

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